

## New-York Daily Tribune

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1864.

## To Advertisers.

Advertisements for THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE of this week are to be inserted in to-day.

## To Correspondents.

For the purpose of inserting communications, the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee for his good faith—must be given. Letters for this office should be addressed to "The Tribune," New-York.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE DAILY TRIBUNE.—To prevent any interruption in the receipt of THE TRIBUNE, subscribers are particularly requested to send the money for renewal of their subscription as promptly as possible. Our mail-boxes are undergoing a revision which renders it necessary for all expired subscriptions to be paid before the 1st day of January.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

## THE WAR.

The Navy Department has received information of the results of the cruise of the United States steamer *Albatross*, Capt. Meade, off Velasco, Texas, by which it appears that on Nov. 29 she chased a schooner ashore, which was totally wrecked by a heavy gale, on Dec. 4 captured the three-masted schooner *Lowell*, with a cargo of 221 bales of long staple cotton, on Dec. 5 captured the British schooner *Julia*, with an assorted cargo, and on Dec. 6 captured the British schooner *Merley*, late of Montreal, with an assorted cargo.

Official advices from Gen. Thomas to Monday represent Hood as still retreating toward the Tennessee River, all the time pretty closely pressed by our army. The Rebels admit the loss of eighteen Generals since they began their famous Northern invasion. Hood's army is represented as being to a great extent demoralized and dispirited.

Richmond papers of yesterday have news from Hardee, who says that Sherman has sent a force toward the Alabama River, undoubtedly to break up the Savannah and Gulf Railroad, but that steps are being taken to prevent the destruction.

## GENERAL NEWS.

The City Inspector reports that during the past week the deaths in New-York were 429—109 men, 123 women, 123 boys and 134 girls—an increase of 64 upon the mortality of the previous week, and a decrease of 11 as compared with the mortality of the corresponding week of 1863. Of the deceased 246 were children, under five years of age. The mortality by the principal diseases was as follows: Consumption, 65; inflammation of the lungs, 44; infantile convulsions, 37; scarlet fever, 20; small pox, 87; infantile marasmus, 20; bronchitis, 24; typhus fever, 8; typhoid, 9; diphtheria, 17; measles, 9; gastric fever, 3; deaths from external causes, 36, among which are reported 2 premature births, 3 deaths from old age, 1 drowned, 5 killed by accidents. There were 79 deaths in the institutions, and 45 interments in Potter's Field.

Bridgeport, Conn., yesterday gave charter officers, electing the Union ticket throughout by 123 majority, a gain of 50 over the Presidential vote.

The Legislature of Missouri met at Jefferson City, on Monday. Both Houses effected a temporary organization.

Alexander Gaw, President of the Prussian Legation, died at Washington yesterday.

Gold opened at 214½, after having sold down to 209 among speculators up-town on Monday. From 214½ the rise rose to 216½, under earnest efforts of the bulls to sustain the market. The closing price was 217½ and the extremes of the day 214½-219½. Government Stocks continue firm, and there was a good inquiry at 101½ for 10-40, and 108½-109½ for 5-20s. Money can be borrowed upon the most favorable terms, with Federal bonds as collateral. In Railway bonds and part shares little was done. Miscellaneous shares were strong. At the second Board the market was strong with a good demand for general stocks. The money market is tight, but some borrowers report difficulties in making up their accounts at 7 per cent.

WREDELL PHILLIPS addressed last evening at Cooper Institute an audience which, spite of the discouraging weather, was large and enthusiastic. His speech was a vigorous protest against that form of Reconstruction which would leave the South as it now presented as the model. We report it at considerable length, and need not indicate the scope of the argument further than to say that it demanded the recognition of loyalty as the essential condition of the reformation of State governments in the South, and denounced the distinction of color as at once unjust to the black race and impolitic for the white.

## WILMINGTON!

Richmond papers announce the beginning of the combined land and naval attack on the defenses of Wilmington. The fleet of Admiral Butler opened a tremendous cannonade on Fort Fisher on Saturday last, and continued it the next day. Gen. Butler also—it does not appear on which day—succeeded in throwing a portion of his force on shore above the fort—between it and Wilmington—and established himself there, resisting an effort by the enemy to drive him off. His seizure of this ground, say the Richmond authorities, is a serious matter, for double the force will be required to dislodge him than that which might have prevented his landing. It is apparent that the communication by land between the fort and town is cut off, and if Gen. Butler has force enough to stretch across and securely hold the peninsula on which Fort Fisher stands, he may command the river with his batteries, and so completely isolate this important work. In which case it will be in a predicament similar to that of Forts Morgan and Gaines at Mobile, after the passage of the entrance by Admiral Farragut. And indeed, the position of Gen. Butler seems so formidable and so threatening that we apprehend it must immediately bring to an issue the question whether Bragg, who commands at Wilmington, has troops enough to assume the offensive immediately. For this is one of those cases where the only true ground of defense lies in promptly and boldly attacking one's enemy before his whole strength has had time to be developed.

Gen. Butler has landed his troops, not of course from the Cape Fear River, but from the Atlantic Ocean—an operation of great delicacy and danger. That it has been accomplished in such circumstances as have attended this attack—the long storm, the long confinement of the troops on shipboard, their protracted and enfee-

bling sea-sickness, the near presence of a hostile force—is proof of great ability shown on our side, or of great weakness on the part of the Rebels. Whichever be true, or if both be, the promise of the result is equally hopeful.

Our special correspondence contains full details and all desirable information as to the force composing this expedition. Until its fortunes are determined one way or the other, it must now be the focus of public attention. We all understand the immense importance of Wilmington. The force assigned for its reduction is not inadequate. The character of the commanders, by land and sea, is assurance that all means will be tried to accomplish the work assigned them. Probably another day will bring their account of the operations included in the Rebel dispatches of to-day.

## THE CAMPAIGN.

Gen. Grant seems to have a good many irons in the fire just now. Scarcely a force under his command that is not actively engaged in offensive operations—the notable exceptions being the two armies of the James and the Potomac, which are close under his eye, and which he holds in the leash to be let slip at the moment when their spring shall be decisive.

Our news is mainly from Rebel papers, and of course is doctored to suit the Richmond market. But even if we accept each report of the defeat or delay of our different armies as true, we still cannot fail to see that the Confederacy is sorely harassed on all sides, and that at some point it must shortly give way.

Gen. Sheridan is again far up the Shenandoah Valley, threatening Gordonsville and Charlottesville, and even Lynchburg. Lee's dispatch published yesterday states that one division of cavalry under Custer was coming up the Valley toward Harrisonburg, while two others under Torbert had passed the Blue Ridge through Chester Gap. It is not to be supposed that a single division of cavalry could be really meant to move on Lynchburg; we presume, therefore, that the columns east and west of the Blue Ridge had a common object, and were to unite further South. Custer might cross the Ridge below Harrisonburg through Swift Run or Brown's Gap, but it is likely he was to concentrate with Torbert at Madison Court House, and so would take the Northern road. Lee's report is a tissue of absurdities. He declares that Rorer attacked Custer nine miles from Harrisonburg, and drove back his division with a loss of forty prisoners. Does anybody believe a division—three or four thousand men—has been defeated, and that the Rebels have nothing to boast of in the way of casualties but forty prisoners? Torbert, also, is reported on the same authority to have attacked Lomax near Gordonsville, and to have been "repulsed and severely handled." What those vague generalities mean when translated into fact we shall only know on receipt of dispatches from the Union commanders. Meanwhile it is safe to believe that a force comprising the whole of Gen. Sheridan's cavalry will suffer worse damage than the Rebels yet charge upon it before it abandons its purpose—whatever that may have been. Lee has found it necessary to strengthen other points by withdrawing nearly all the garrisons of Gordonsville and Charlottesville, and though those towns are fortified their capture is by no means improbable.

Gen. Butler's activity is characteristic. Beside the grand demonstration upon Wilmington, he has sent a considerable force from Suffolk toward Weldon, apparently to do the work which Warren left unfinished. A second force has moved toward Fort Branch on the Roanoke River, and after being "severely handled" by the Rebel telegrams, resumed the attack with such success, apparently, that it was not thought worth while to continue the account of his operations. Poplar Spring or Point, near which Fort Branch seems to be situated, is thirty miles above Plymouth, and the movement in this direction is manifestly intended to clear the navigation of the Roanoke River, on which Weldon is situated. The expected cooperation of the gunboats failed from torpedoes.

Of the two or three columns which are cutting the railway connections of Mobile and moving apparently upon the city itself, we have no definite accounts. The Rebel papers are mysterious, as their way is when they have bad news. The little fight at Pollard, seventy miles north of Mobile, indicates nothing either way—for Beauregard's name is to the dispatch, and it is not probable that man could tell the truth if he tried. Nor is it probable he ever tried.

Thomas is well to the south of Duck River, and pressing steadily upon the rear and flanks of his retreating enemy. There is reason to suppose a heavy force has been sent to cut off Hood's approach to the Tennessee, and that his pontoons have been swept away. At any rate, the Tennessee is high, and Hood's prospects for a retreat across it, if he is pushed hard, are not favorable. The Rebel commander has a good many men left, no doubt, but he can scarcely be said to have an army. What remains of the force with which he moved on Nashville must be wholly reorganized before it can again fit for the field.

## SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

We have already announced the opening of the Congress of the South American Republics, which took place at Lima on the 14th of November. The Congress is composed of the Plenipotentiaries of Chili, Peru, Bolivia, the Argentine Republic, Ecuador, the United States of Colombia, and Venezuela. It is also reported that a representative of Guatemala has arrived at Lima, but he was not present at the opening session. A report that the Empire of Brazil would likewise be represented seems to have had no foundation. We see, at least, no mention in the detailed accounts given by the South American papers of the arrival of a Brazilian plenipotentiary. The Congress, therefore, may be regarded as an exponent of South American Republicanism.

The accounts which we receive from all the States of South America agree that the intensest interest is everywhere taken in the idea of the objects, and the proceedings of this first South American Congress. The people everywhere look upon it as the opening of a new era for the southern half of the American Continent. Unlike the inhabitants of the British possessions in America, who are generally accustomed to use the term American in a sense as though it did not embrace them, the Republicans of South America have, ever since the establishment of their independence, been proud of the title of American, and this feeling has been greatly strengthened by the French invasion of Mexico, and the policy of Spain toward San Domingo and Peru. They feel this need of association, both to secure their independence against the monarchial powers of Europe, and to develop the more rapidly their great resources. The idea of their common interest in the preservation and strengthening of republican institutions seem to have struck so deep root, that even if the proceedings of this first Congress should not have all the desired effect, we may surely expect the accomplishment of a bond of confederation at an early period.

For the present, the most important question which occupies the attention of the Congress is the relations between Peru and Spain. It is reported that the Plenipotentiaries were unanimously in favor of making the cause of Peru the common cause of all the republics. On the part of Ecuador this declaration is hardly sincere, as the government of that State has always convulsed at the anti-republican movements of France and Spain with regard to American affairs. Still less can be expected from Guatemala, if it should really take part in the Congress. The President of this Republic, Gen. Carrera, on the recent opening of the Legislature of that State, appeared very anxious to court the friendship of both Peru and Spain, of both the South American Republics and the new Emperor of Mexico. The disposition of the other Central American States is likewise doubtful, as the Governments of most of them sympathize with President Carrera of Guatemala. But no doubt is entertained about the sincere sympathy felt with Peru by the other Republics of South America, and a war with Peru would be likely to lead to a war of Spain with all these States.

We await the further proceedings of the South American Congress with great interest. The mission which it has undertaken is great and glorious. If the idea which lies at the bottom of the Congress should be successfully carried out, it will close the chronic civil wars in South and Central America, and make many or most of these States participants in the rapid progress which thus far the United States, alone among the countries of America, has experienced. A successful South American Congress may do much toward strengthening the bonds of union which ought to unite the inhabitants of all parts of the American Continent, and toward the annihilation upon our Continent of all undue European influence, an object in the consummation of which all Americans are equally concerned.

## THE STATE OF OUR COUNTRY.

An eminent citizen, who has served our State honorably in several important stations, and who voted for Mr. Lincoln for the first time last month, having previously been a conservative Whig, favors us with the following observations, which seem to us worthy of thoughtful regard:

## THE ELECTION.

Never had a people more cause for thankfulness to the Supreme Ruler over human affairs, than have the loyal people of these United States over the result of the recent elections. Many patriots, alarmed, for the moment, by the "signs of the times," had almost despaired of the Republic. No party ever made more desperate efforts to regain their lost ascendancy, than were made by the Democratic party at the late election. There is a charm in the word "Democracy" which brought thousands and tens of thousands to the support of the Chicago platform, with all its details of unmitigated dishonesty—who, called upon under any other name, would have recoiled, with disgust, from the treacherous summons. The masses of the people, born and nurtured under our institutions, are well affected toward the Government. It would be unnatural were it otherwise. For no other people had, ever, such cause to rejoice in their political privileges. If pure and unalloyed happiness—so far as human institutions can bestow it—was ever enjoyed by any nation, the people of this favored land have it, to its fullest extent, and in its most perfect form. If, under our institutions, men are not comparatively happy, the fault is not to be found in the institutions themselves, but in the folly that spurns or perverts them. It may be said, without the imputation of vanity and self-laudation—for the world will acknowledge it—that our people are generally better educated than those of other lands. From the earliest settlement of the country, the Northern and Middle States especially have exhibited a commendable regard for the education of the masses. To that, more than to any other cause, may be attributed the disaffection and ultimate separation of the Colonies from the mother country, and the establishment of the free institutions under which we are now living. The Western States, being offshoots mainly of the Northern and Middle States, naturally adopted the systems to which they had been accustomed, and under which they had been educated. Except in the Southern States—where but little regard has ever been paid to the education of the masses—the means are abundantly provided for the mental culture of the people as well of the rich, school-houses, well-constructed and sufficiently commodious, are now a prominent feature throughout the Northern, Middle, and Western States. A people with such advantages understand their rights, and will be found under every emergency prepared to defend them. They have a regard for the dignity of their country, and they will encounter every danger to maintain it. Considering themselves to be part and parcel of the Great Republic, every infringement upon its honor they regard as a personal affair. Their own is interwoven with the public safety, and they believe that in protecting their country they defend themselves. While thousands of wealthy and more highly cultivated citizens—to their dishonor be it spoken—have been and still are willing to submit to the haughty demands and insolent taunts of rebels and traitors, the masses of the people, as is shown by their votes, are for vindicating the cause of their country, and they will shrink from no sacrifice necessary to preserve the national unity, and to establish the authority of the United States Government over every foot of our territory. They declare, by the election of Mr. Lincoln, that this war has not been a "failure"—that there shall not be a "cession of hostilities"—with a view to an "ultimate convention of the

States" for the purposes insidiously set forth in the Chicago Platform. On the contrary, they declared will of the people is, that there can be no peace with the Rebels until they lay down their arms and submit themselves to the Constitution and the violated laws of their country. No mistaken sympathy, by any portion of the North, for "our Southern brethren," can arrest the progress of this war, involving the Nation's existence as well as its honor, until the OLD FLAG, the emblem of our national sovereignty, shall float in triumph over every fort, arsenal, custom-house, and every other spot within our national domain from which traitorous hands have torn it. The will of the nation, whatever doubts up to this time may have been entertained, is now known, and we have no reason to fear they fail to carry out, to its utmost title, the recorded will of the American people.

The spectacle of millions of freemen, scattered over remote States, peacefully assembling at designated points, to select from the ranks of their fellow-citizens the men who are to administer the affairs of a great nation, would, under any circumstances, appear wonderful and almost incredible to men unacquainted with our people and ignorant of their habits. But when it is considered that we are in the midst of a civil war, which, for the magnitude of the consequences involved, and the energy with which it is prosecuted, is unequalled in the past history of the world—when we take into account that a million of men, armed to the teeth, are engaged in almost daily conflict—and when we consider that almost half a million of the soldiers in the field participate, amid the "din of arms," in the solemn act of selecting their Chief Magistrate under the Constitution of their country—that such selection has been made peacefully, and with all the formulas known to the Constitution and the laws—the whole proceeding presents an aspect of moral sublimity never before witnessed among any people. Such a people ought to be, and so long as the Union of these States can be maintained, they will be, free.

Great fear was entertained by many, that, in the event of the election of Mr. Lincoln, there would be a rising of the North to oppose his inauguration. Many circumstances were pointed out as indicating such a result—arms had been sent, under false labels, into several of the States, and demagogues, supposed to be in the interest of the Rebels, openly proclaimed that his election would justify a revolution in the Northern States. He was declared to be a usurper, disregarding the rights of the people, and exercising powers unknown to the Constitution and laws of the United States. Such charges have been the usual precursors to revolutionary movements by the people in other countries. Never, it is believed, have such grave charges been more persistently urged, or more unjustly preferred. For never, in the history of the world, has a civil war been conducted with less oppression, or with a higher regard for the rights of the people, than have been displayed by the Government of the United States through all the stages of this senseless and wicked rebellion. Whatever errors were committed have been on the side, rather, of clemency and moderation.

Many true patriots in the Democratic party were induced to oppose the Union candidate from the fear that his success would evoke the spirit of resistance, and precipitate the nation into a second rebellion. Believing that the opposing candidate had rejected, in toto, the Chicago platform, and having entire faith in his patriotism and Union proclivities, they rallied to his support, along with others whose known sympathies had been, from the commencement of our difficulty, on the side of the Rebels. It was believed by the patriotic but over-anxious portion of the Democratic party that an honorable peace, with the restoration of the Union, might be secured under Gen. McClellan as President of the United States. But vast majority of the American people thought otherwise; and with none was that conviction stronger than with the officers and soldiers of the army in the Valley of the Shenandoah, and in the intrenchments around Richmond, Petersburg and Atlanta. They were convinced that an honorable peace could not be had, nor the Union restored, but by the conquest of the Rebel strongholds and the dispersion of their armed legions. Everything indicated to the minds of our soldiers that the Rebel leaders, as well in the civil as in the military department of their so-called Confederacy, would not yield their claims to a separate Government, until forced to do so by the overthrow and destruction of their armies. The nation has decided, notwithstanding all the arguments addressed to its fears, its interests, its prejudices and its passions, by an unexampled majority, that the war shall proceed—till the sword shall not be sheathed until the Union is restored.

Under these circumstances, what course does it behoove an American patriot to pursue? This is an important question, and it must be solved by every citizen for himself. Henceforward, until this war is ended, there can be recognized, politically speaking, but two classes of men—one will be composed of those who support their country, and the other of those who are in opposition to it. In a time of war, there is no middle ground on which to stand. He who is not for the country is against it. The brand of Cain will be graven on every forehead that does not bow to the public will, so audibly and so fully expressed. If the opponents of the Administration be sincere, as they undoubtedly are, in their desire for a speedy peace, they can be gratified to their utmost wishes by uniting with their opponents in a vigorous prosecution of the war. Let them discard their prejudices and their hostility, at least for the present, and instead of throwing obstacles in the path of our armies, let them unite with the declared friends of the war in removing every obstruction to the progress of our arms. If the executive arm lack vigor, strengthen it; and let our soldiers in the field know and feel, amid the dangers and hardships they are encountering, that the sympathies of the people in all the loyal States are with them. That, of itself, would be equal to an additional force of one hundred thousand men on the side of the Union, and a peace honorable to the nation could be had in a comparatively short period of time. If it be desired, as it must be, that the enormous expenses incurred by the prosecution of the war be brought to a conclusion, that result can be reached by employing the means by which peace may be restored to the country. If it be desirable to the opponents of the administration—as it must be to them, as well as to all others—that serious taxation upon the industry of the country be reduced, and frauds and peculations, incident to all wars, be brought to a close, these results may also be attained by the united efforts of the people to bring the war to a speedy and successful issue. To prolong the war is to accumulate debt, derange business, multiply national as well as individual distress, and promote fraud and peculation to the great detriment of the nation. If we would have what remains of our gallant army speedily restored to their families, and to the industrial pursuits of the country, let the war be prosecuted with vigor by a united people. All cannot go to the field; but there are few who cannot, in other ways, bring

some aid to the patriotic cause in which the nation is engaged.

They who think that the war, ere this, should have been brought to a conclusion, must consider that the Rebels, having resolved, for years back, on the course they would pursue, were fully prepared for the conflict. With a baseness never before exhibited even by traitors, they abused the confidence reposed in them by a generous nation, by surreptitiously appropriating to the purposes of treason the munitions of war that had been provided for the defense of the country. While occupying the highest offices, and drawing their pay from the common treasury, they were plotting, in secret, the ruin of the Government they professed to serve. Having all their arrangements made, they commenced the war. For such a conflict, we were unprepared. We had an army to create, to organize and drill. Almost two years were passed, from the outbreak of the Rebellion, before we were enabled to bring into the field a well appointed army. Most of our officers were inexperienced, and had to learn, in the face of the enemy, rudiments of military science. We had to create a navy of unusual force, to blockade a vast extent of sea-coast, and for the transportation of our armies. In addition to these difficulties, we had to advance upon the enemy in a country every road of which was known to them, and scanned with a military eye, in view of the deadly struggle that would ensue on the outbreak of the Rebellion. Nor must we, in reviewing our situation, overlook the fact that the country through which we had to advance upon the enemy presented unusual difficulties to be encountered by an invading army. Of these the Rebels were aware, yet, notwithstanding these alone for safety, they improved their natural advantages by all the artificial constructions which military science could bring to their aid. Every hill-top was fortified, and the banks of their numerous rivers bristled with cannon. Their engineers—having more skill than principle—were well educated at the expense of the United States Government, from whose service they deserted, with their regiments, to the camp of the Rebels. Nevertheless, left to their own resources, they would ere this have yielded to the superior power of the loyal States. We have had throughout this distressing struggle to encounter the hostility both of England and of France. Their sympathies have been for the commencement of hostilities have been with the Rebels; and the former power, especially, has been both constant and liberal in her contributions of material aid to the cause of the enemy. She has been the shipyard, the recruiting ground and the armory of the Rebellion. With all these and many other difficulties which might be brought in to the account, the progress we have made in the war is creditable alike to the Government and the Army; all that is now wanting to insure a speedy and brilliant success is unity of action among the people of the loyal States. Henceforward, let party rancor subside; let prejudices be overcome and "by-gones" be known only in the past; we have a common heritage to save, and let us use a common exertion to save it. To produce that unity so necessary to the salvation of the Republic, let us travel henceforth cease; let the offensive terms "Copperheads," as applied to the Democratic party, and "Black Republicans" and "Abolitionists," as applied to their opponents, be laid aside, and let all future discussions be conducted with decency and forbearance. The Administration should not, and it will not, object to a candid review of its measures and to fair criticism upon its public acts. Indiscriminate abuse betrays a feeble spirit, while timely and judicious criticism may be consistent with the purest motives and the loftiest patriotism. In this emergency of our national affairs, we have the strongest motives that can actuate freemen to make a grand, united effort to subdue the Rebellion, and destroy the hopes of those, here and in other lands, who would overthrow the "Great Republic" and extinguish forever the beacon-light of liberty on this Western Continent. AN OLD WHIG.

## Amusements.

SACRED AND MISCELLANEOUS CONCERT.—A concert is to be given this evening at the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, under the direction of Dr. William H. Hays, for the benefit of the Mission Society. Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Barclay, and Messrs. Wernicke and Thatcher will assist.

HILLER'S SALES DIABOLIQUE.—An afternoon performance will be given to-day at this place of entertainment, beginning at 2 o'clock.

WALLACE'S THEATRE.—"The White Secret" will be performed to-night at this theatre for the first time this season.

HYPNOTHEATRE.—"Harlequin Blue Beard," the new pantomime, is represented this afternoon at the Hypnotheatre.

## BROOKLYN ITEMS.

BROOKLYN COMMON COUNCIL.—A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held last night, all the members being present.

The Corporation Counsel gave his opinions in relation to the resolutions passed authorizing parties to run cars on the tracks of the railroad companies now in operation. His remarks are of considerable length, and he concludes as follows: "I am of opinion that, under the existing laws, the City of New-York is entitled to the exclusive use of the rail tracks they have constructed, they are entitled not to the exclusive right of use of the streets named in their grant, but to such quiet enjoyment of them as the purposes of their grant require in common with the public at large and other companies duly organized." The document was ordered to be printed. Resolutions were unanimously adopted complimentary to Mr. T. V. Talmage, the President of the Board, Mr. Henry McClellan, the City Clerk, and others connected with the City Government, shortly after which the Board adjourned.

DROWNED IN A BAT.—Michael Maloney, employed in the distillery corner of Third and Ave. and Twelfth Sts., was drowned in a vat yesterday morning. His remains were taken to the residence of his family, corner of Third and Ave. and Twelfth Sts., by officers of the Forty-eighth Precinct Police.

## NEW-JERSEY ITEMS.

A NEW COUNTY.—A movement has been made to make the City of Newark a separate County (it contained, at the last census, 73,000 inhabitants), leaving Orange the County-town of the remainder of Essex County, its present name.

ORANGE, N. J.—The Morris & Essex Railroad Company are building a very convenient and handsome depot at "Brick Church" station, in that town. There are six depots in the town, and it is in contemplation to erect a fine depot at Orange Centre as soon as the land can be procured in addition to that now owned by the company. The present depot at that station is a disgrace to the town, and entirely inadequate to the wants of the business community and traveling public.

THE HOBOKEN FERRY.—Since the Morris and Essex Railroad made its eastern terminus at Hoboken, so inadequate to the demand of the traveling public have been the accommodations of the ferry-boat, ferry line that passengers have suffered serious inconveniences and annoyances, particularly on the arrival of the morning trains. On the arrival of one of these trains recently, a committee of passengers was appointed to return in the boat and call upon the Superintendent of the ferry in relation to the subject. The committee, composed of Messrs. J. J. Morill, of West Orange; the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, of East Orange; D. J. Sprague, of South Orange; J. M. Pratt, of Montclair; and Wm. B. Bradley, of Bloomfield, were appointed, and returned to the city highly gratified with the result, at the prospect of contemplated improvements.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.  
WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1864.

## ANOTHER PIRATE.

A new rebel pirate, the *Shenandoah*, has been let loose on us. Walcott, formerly of our naval service, commands her. His wife, under the protection of our Government, is stationed at Baltimore.

## SIGNS OF CABINET CHANGES.

Admiral Wilkes was suspended from duty for three years from May 3, 1864, by the sentence of a Court-Martial. The President to-day remitted two years of the sentence. This clemency, taken in connection with the well-known personal warfare between the Secretary of the Navy and the Admiral, and the postponement of the time when it is to take effect beyond the Fourth of March, is accepted by many as a sure omen of Cabinet changes after the latter day.

## DISPATCH BOAT SENT TO BUTLER.

Immediately on the appearance in New-York papers of the details of the force of Butler's expedition and his plan to blow down Fort Fisher, a dispatch boat was sent to New-Orleans to apprise him of the unpatriotic betrayal of his plans to the Rebels.

## APPOINTMENTS IN HANCOCK'S CORPS.

Col. Oliver Wood, B. A. F. Groer, Oscar Maloney, Lewis R. Stigma, Samuel D. Hopper, Capt. Walter S. Payne, Milton Mills, A. P. Butler, M. M. Hayden, C. Edward Davis, E. S. Sherman, James Melville, Jr., First Lieut. Martin R. Connolly, J. M. Waterman, W. F. Still, J. W. Lord, S. F. Dubois, D. Irwin, H. A. Maxwell, Paul Hartley, Herman Forester, David H. Winfield, Second Lieut. Joseph J. Howard, Charles G. Gordon, R. F. Wolfkill, Y. M. Jones. None of the above are from Massachusetts or Pennsylvania.

## NEWS FROM MEXICO.

Official dispatches received to-day from Mexico state that President Juarez entered Chihuahua on the 12th of October and met with a very enthusiastic reception, not only from the people of the city, but from the inhabitants of other towns of the State. The Mexican President designed to establish his residence in Durango, after that city was occupied by the national forces, but the French having obtained a victory at the Estanquillo on the 2d of September, the Mexican army had to withdraw to Chihuahua.

President Juarez is now there busy organizing another army to carry on more effectively the war against the invaders. He writes to a friend of his in this country in the most hopeful way. The general impression in Mexico seems to be that Maximilian's rule has so many obstacles in its way that it cannot stand more than six months longer, even in case the Mexican patriots would be hereafter as unfortunate as they have been heretofore in their efforts to oppose the conquest.

Maximilian has set aside the Church party, which was the means by which he went to Mexico, and has called its two principal leaders. He wishes to conciliate the Liberals, but in that he will certainly fail, and will remain only an outcast on the Mexican people. His principal trouble is just now his want of money and of credit to borrow.

It is generally believed that the National Government of Mexico will be able not only to hold on until our war is over, but that even they may gain before that signal advantages over their adversaries. The news of the capture of Savannah and of Hood's defeat, will, it is thought, be more severely felt by Maximilian than the loss of two great battles by the French army in Mexico.

## THE TEN-FORTIES.

Although it is stated authoritatively that the Secretary of the Treasury has taken no final steps in closing the subscription to the ten-forty loan, the circulars to the national banks, ordering them to stop the sale of the bonds after the 31st, were certainly in print.

## PAYING UP.

The Treasury Department intends to have paid on the 1st of January all outstanding requisitions up to December 1.

## GEN. SHERMAN ON THE WAR.

A letter from Gen. Sherman is in town, which treats incidentally of our Administration, of the war, and the prospects of the Rebellion, and which closes with a sentence that clings on many ears with the ring of a Viking's sword leaping from its scabbard: "My idea is that every young and middle-aged man ought to be proud of the chance to fight for the integrity of his country. I would like to see all trade and commerce absolutely cease until this conflict is over; and all who can fight, and want fight, ought to be killed or banished; and those who want support those who do fight should be denationalized."

## THE GAMING IN GEORGIA.

The joy at getting 33,000 bales of abandoned cotton, in abandoned Savannah, begins to be tempered with an estimate of the value of the loss of the 15,000 troops and artillery that Hardee was allowed to march off with. These troops have got to be fought by us at Charleston or Richmond, or along the way to both cities. It is now thought the cotton will hardly balance our account current with them to the end of the war.

## PRISONERS OF WAR.

There get languish in Rebel slaughter-pens of the Andersonville pattern fifty thousand of our Northern soldiers. Of the hundred thousand Rebel prisoners in comfortable and well-warmed barracks, those at Elmira receive ten cents a day for their labor in making their quarters more beautiful and comfortable. Those at Point Lookout receive for similar labor whisky and tobacco rations. To all, everywhere, vegetables are regularly issued, and to most blankets have been given.

## THE DOUBLEDAY COURT-MARTIAL.

The Doubleday Court of Inquiry is ordered substantially to hurry up the North trial, and do justice among the thieves in the Philadelphia Navy-Yard. It is said that a blockade-runner whose trial has just been concluded by the Judge-Advocate, but who has not yet been sentenced, has already the promise of the executive clemency.

## CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS.

W. Prescott Smith, the manager of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, made a magnificent celebration of Christmas in his mansion in Baltimore. His invitations, issued by the hundred, included all the Washington representatives of the Northern and Western press.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Dec. 27, 1864.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue is sending out instructions for the collection of two dollars per gallon on all spirits that may be distilled and sold, or distilled and removed, for consumption or sale on and after the first of January next, in accordance with the bill recently passed by Congress, which has been approved by the President.

## THE RIVER OPEN.

The Potomac River is again navigable, though there is much floating ice.

## ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

The mail boats have lately brought to Washington from City Point, a large number of army officers on leave of absence.

## TEN-FORTIES.

The subscriptions to the Ten-Forty Loan reported to the Treasury Department to-day, amount to \$250,000, and to the Seven-Thirty Loan \$1,000,000.

SPRINKLING IN CALIFORNIA.—A great storm, lasting three days, terminated on the 28th of November, after inflicting considerable damage on land and sea. But the good which it accomplished more than outweighed all the loss which it occasioned. Mined and agricultural operations, which had long lain dormant on account of the drought, were speedily renewed, with the most flattering prospect of success.

NAVIGATION OF THE AMAZON.—A most important discovery, far more so than that of the alleged source of the Nile, has just been made in South America. It is that the great River Amazon has been found to be navigable from one end to the other, that is, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and a new route has been opened for the commerce of the world. The steamer *Amazon*, a Brazilian vessel, was sent to explore the Amazon, has arrived from the Pacific, and has returned to the Atlantic, and is now on its way to the mouth of the River, which is said to be more than 2,000 miles long. The country is